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Weddings & Honeymoons

Destination

WINTER 2005

JUST MARRIED

Renée Duane & Aaron Meyer
Qamea, Fiji / March 16, 2005

RENÉE DUANE REGULARLY PLANS DESTINATION weddings and honeymoons for others as the owner of Unforgettable Honeymoons, an agency based in Portland, Oregon. So it's only fitting that her own Fijian wedding—to rock violinist Aaron Meyer—would go off without a hitch. But this time, Renée didn't have to lift a finger.

Instead, she picked Qamea Resort and Spa—a sentimental favorite since becoming engaged there last year—and asked the resort's wedding coordinator, Cia Mitchell, to arrange an authentic Fijian celebration. While Cia tended to the last-minute details, Renée and Aaron relaxed with spa treatments and diving to see the island's spectacular coral gardens.

Cia's plans called for traditional Fijian clothing for Aaron and a team of warriors to carry Renée to the seaside ceremony site under two arching palm trees.

Local villagers took part in a postnuptial kava ceremony and *meke* of music and dance, as well as the evening *lovo* feast of pork, seafood, and vegetables cooked underground. To show his appreciation to the locals, Aaron later played a violin concert before the village chief. —SHARI MYCEK



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Qamea resort guests, staff, and 100 islanders took part in Renée and Aaron's festivities. "They told us it was the largest wedding on the island ever," Renée says.



Photographs courtesy of Qamea Resort and Spa